

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00222 251549Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0222

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU
SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTIONS TO EMBARGO LIFTING REPORTS

REF: (A) STATE 019742, (B) NICOSIA 0219, (C) NICOSIA 0211

1. WE PASSED TEXT OF REF A TO FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES JAN 25 TO ASSURE THAT GOC HAD LATEST PUBLIC STATEMENT OF US POSITION ON CYPRUS AND TURKISH DCA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CHRISTOPHIDES THANKED US FOR THE TEXT BUT MADE NO OTHER COMMENT.

2. WE ALSO PASSED THE TEXT TO PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR NICOS ROLANDIS AS FOLLOW-UP TO OUR CONVERSATION WITH HIM OF JAN 24 (REF C). ROLANDIS REPORTED HE HAD DISCUSSED THE WHOLE ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU DURING THE AFTERNOON OF JAN 24. ROLANDIS SAID HE SUGGESTED TO THE PRESIDENT THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU DID NOT HAVE AN EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY VANCE, AS THIS COULD FORCE THE SECRETARY TO ARTICULATE A POLICY THE GOC MIGHT NOT WANT TO HEAR. ACCORDING TO ROLANDIS, KYPRIANOU
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 00222 251549Z

CONCURRED AND TELEPHONED DIMITRIOU WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO CANCEL LATTER'S REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT WITH SECRETARY. DIMITRIOU RE-THAT THE APPOINTMENT WAS ALREADY SET UP, SO KYPRIANOU DECIDED TO LET IT CONTINUE.

3. ROLANDIS ALSO REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU AND A GROUP OF ADVISORS HAD CONSIDERED THE QUESTION OF NEWS REPORTS ON

POSSIBLE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO IN AN EVENING MEETING JAN 24. THIS HAD RESULTED IN ADVICE TO LOCAL NEWSPAPERS TO ADOPT A MODERATE TONE WITH REGARD TO US POSITION ON LIFTING OF EMBARGO. WE NOTE (REF B) THAT JAN 25 EDITORIALS IN GREEK CYPRUS PRESS WERE MODERATE BY CYPRIOT STANDARDS AND THAT ALMOST ALL NEWSPAPERS MADE CLEAR THAT THE CONCERN BEING FELT IN NICOSIA WAS BASED ON NEWS REPORTS.

4. JUST AS THIS TELEGRAM WAS BEING DRAFTED, ROLANDIS CALLED TO SAY THAT PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU HAD READ THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE DEPT SPOKESMAN'S JAN 24 STATEMENT "WITH GREAT INTEREST" AND PLANNED TO HAVE IT USED BY CYPRUS BROADCASTING CORPORATION RADIO NEWS IN A FURTHER EFFORT TO REDUCE LOCAL CONCERNS ABOUT THE EMBARGO ISSUE.

5. IN STILL ANOTHER TELEPHONE CALL, ROLANDIS SAID PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU HAD ASKED EMBASSY TO REQUEST AN ANSWER TO KYPRIANOU'S JAN 23 DEMARCHE TO CHARGE BEFORE AMB DIMITRIOU SEES SECRETARY VANCE FEB 1. KYPRIANOU FEELS HE NEEDS A RESPONSE SOONEST; A DELAY OF MORE THAN A WEEK WILL CAUSE HIM SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL PROBLEMS. CHARGE TOLD ROLANDIS WE UNDERSTAND IT IS MOST LIKELY SECRETARY WILL GIVE HIS RESPONSE TO KYPRIANOU THROUGH DIMITRIOU, BUT WE PROMISED TO TRANSMIT HIS REQUEST FOR AN EARLIER ANSWER. (FONOFF DIRGEN PELAGHIAS MENTIONED KHPRIANOU'S REQUEST FOR AN EARLIER RESPONSE TO CHARGE IN A LATER CONVERSATION JAN 25, BUT ATTACHED LESS URGENCY TO IT THAN HAD ROLANDIS.)
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NICOSI 00222 251549Z

6. ADDRESSEES SHOULD RECALL THAT ROLANDIS IS KYPRIANOU'S DESIGNATED PRIVATE CHANNEL TO THE EMBASSY. ROLANDIS HAS CAUTIONED US AGAIN NOT TO MENTION TO GOC EMBASSY OR MINISTRY OFFICIALS THAT HE IS IN DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH US.
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